



References from *Reflections on Giving* **Giving is faith...**

Below please find references that were used in the Giving is faith...VISION article, taken from the Reflections on Faith paper.

Page 7

Many of our current beliefs stem from the Old Testament. The first reference to offering comes in the account of Cain and Abel in Genesis. Both brought an offering to the Lord from the fruits of their work. God accepted Abel's offering but not Cain's because Abel offered out of faith, as referred to in Hebrews 11:4. Also in Genesis, we find references to sacrifices offered to God by individuals expressing their thankfulness and seeking God's good pleasure or blessing.

These sacrifices often took the form of burnt offerings on an altar made of stones. A more detailed explanation of Old Testament offering and sacrifice, including the various ritual sacrifices, can be found in Section 13.2 of the New Apostolic Catechism.

Page 15

"Give and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." (Luke 6:38 NKJV)

Page 17

Christian giving is needed by me: While there is much need within the church and by those who suffer, it can also be said that Christians need the opportunity to give for their own spiritual growth and to share the love of God. *But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have abundance for every good work. As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever."* (2 Corinthians 9:6-9 NKJV)

Page 18

Christian giving goes beyond money: We are to offer our time and talents as well. To the Romans, Paul gives this advice:

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. (Romans 12:6-8 NKJV)

Page 19

The willingness to offer and sacrifice is also expressed in congregational life when brethren in faith dedicate a substantial amount of their leisure time, energy, and talents into the service of God and the congregation without compensation. (13.2.3)

Page 25

Giving Is Faith: Christian giving honors God because it is a tangible expression of complete dependence on Him. God owns all things, and has pledged His support to those who follow Him. His own beloved Son is the guarantee of His goodwill. The one who trusts that God will supply his every need has no fear of becoming generous. In giving away what the world says he needs to survive, he confesses that the source of his security is a good Father in Heaven. In giving away what so easily rules his heart, he renounces the god Mammon, and swears allegiance to the Lord and Giver of life.